

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

EURE-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-06 FRB-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-03 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /067 W
----- 124012

P R 051837Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7737

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 8608

USIAC

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC, US, OVIP (BUTZ)

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO BUTZ-LARDINOIS PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY

1. PRESS REACTION AVAILABLE TO USEC TODAY ON JOINT
PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 4 BY SECRETARY BUTZ AND
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EC COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS GENERALLY FAVORABLE,

EMPHASIZING AREAS OF US/EC AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. LONDON TIMES POINTED TO BUTZ-LARDINOIS AGREEMENT ON NEED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDCS. ARTICLE REPORTED BUTZ' DETERMINATION NOT TO IMPOSE EXPORT CONTROLS ON CEREALS DUE TO US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING EUROPEAN MARKET. " BUT HE WARNED BEEF EXPORTERS, PARTICULARLY THE AUSTRALIANS, THAT THE US MIGHT HAVE TO INTRODUCE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS NEXT YEAR," THE ARTICLE CONCLUDE.

2. GUARDIAN LEAD SAID BUTZ "DELIVERED A CLEAR WARNING HERE TODAY THAT WHILE AMERICAN IS LIKELY TO REMAIN THE WORLD'S BREAD-BASKET FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, OTHER COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR FEEDING THOSE IN NEED." ARTICLE REFERRED TO "OPTIMISTIC FORECAST" FOR NEXT YEAR'S CROPS; SAID AMERICANS ARE ITTITATED BY EC PLANS TO OFFER COMMODITY STABILIZATION ARRANGEMENT FOR LDCS BECAUSE PROPOSALS MAY LEAD TO "WORLD WIDE PRESSURE FOR SUCH A SYSTEM." ARTICLE POINTED OUT THAT BUTZ AND LARDINOIS AGREE MAJOR THEME AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN LDCS. SOMEWHAT CONTENTIOUS TONE OF ARTICLE WAS IN CONTRAST TO MORE POSITIVE REPORTS IN MOST PAPERS.

3. INFLUENTIAL EUROPE BULLETIN CARRIES EXTENSIVE REPORT ON PRESS CONFERENCE, POINTED OUT EARLY IN THE ARTICLE LARDINOIS REITERATION "THE COMMUNITY IS DOING ITS UTMOST" TO HOLD DOWN AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. ARTICLE SAID THAT ON EVE OF THE WFC THE US AND EC ARE TRYING TO MINIMIZE "CERTAIN DIVERGENT APPROACHES" AND THEN DESCRIBED POSITIONS ON CEREALS STORAGE POLICY, WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY JGEC OPPOSES, "THE US ATTITUDE, AS MR. BUTZ EXPLAINED, IS QUITE OPEN"), INCREASED PRODUCTION IN LDCS AND INCREASED FOOD AID (US WANTS REDISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOOD AID).

4. GERMAN PRESS VERY FAVORABLE. HANDELSBLATT NOTED "FAR-REACHING AGREEMENT OF THE INITIAL POSITONS REGARDING THE MAIN THEMES OF THE ROME CONFERENCE." FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU TOOK SAME LINE. DIE WELT STRESSED BUTZ EMPHASIS ON UNCLASSIFIED

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VOLUNTARY MONITORING OF EXPORTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ROLE AS RELIABLE SUPPLIER TO EC.

5. BELGIAN PRESS FAVORABLE FRONT-PAGE STORY WITH PHOTO IN DE STANDAARD TITLED "LARDINOIS-BUTZ MEETING RESULTS IN CLARIFICATION; UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EC AND US IN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS ECELLENT." ARTICLE CITED LARDINOIS PROMISE OF BETTER CONTROL OF EC'S

IMPORT NEEDS, IN ORDER TO PREVENT SPECULATIVE ORDERS FROM US. STORY CONTINUED, " BUTZ ALSO DEFUSED THE FORD TIME-BOMB" REGARDING COUNTERVAILING PROCEDURE ON EC SUBSIDIZED EC EXPORTS OF CHEESE. "BUTZ AND LARDINOIS ALSO SEEM TO HAVE CLEARED MISUNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING EC INTENTIONS REGARDING LDC EXPORT EARNING GUARANTEES."

LES OIR (BRUSSELS)) SAID THAT TALKS MAINLY CONCERNED CEREALS. LARDINOIS "INDICATED THE COMMUNITY PLANS CLOSER SURVEILLANCE OF IMPORTS BY PUTTING THEM ON A "STRICT NEED BASIS." HOWEVER, ARTICLE CONTINUED, US OPPOSED TO COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WHILE EC FAVORS THEM.

6. IRISH TIMES SAID BUTZ AND LARDINOIS MET TO EXPRESS RESPECTIVE GOOD INTENTIONS.

7. REUTER BRUSSELS DISPATCH REPORTED BUTZ AFFIRMATION, "THE USG INTENDED TO KEEP AN OPEN GRAIN MARKET THIS YEAR AND HAD AN 'ABSOLUTE WILL' TO MAINTAIN FREE TRADE WITHIN A MONITORING SYSTEM."

8. UPI LEAD SAID "THE US PROPOSED TODAY A NEW WORLD FOOD AGENCY TO BRING RUSSIA AND THE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS INTO FOOD AID PROGRAMS." ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONED LARDINOIS PROMISE EC WOULD MONITOR ITS GRAIN IMPORTS, NEEDS AND CONTRACTS.

9. FRENCH CORRESPONDENTS FOR LE MONDE AND LE FIGARO TOLD USEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR AT EC COMMISSION RECEPTION NOVEMBER 4 THAT THEY WOULD NOT FILE STORIES ON PRESS CONFERENCE. REASON WAS THAT BUTZ AND LARDINOIS WERE SO MUCH IN AGREEMENT THAT IN THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE PRESS " REAL DIVERGENCES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WERE NOT BROUGHT OUT".
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10. AT SAME RECEPTION OTHER JOURNALISTS EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM AT HOW COMMODITY AGREEMENTS BASED ON QUANTITY TARGETS MIGHT BE ANY MORE LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABLE SUPPLY CONDITIONS THAN WERE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS BASED ON RELATIVELY NARROW RANGE OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PRICES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU08608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740317-0731
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741171/aaaacign.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO BUTZ-LARDINOIS PRESS CONFERENCE SUMMARY
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, OVIP, US, EEC, (BUTZ), (LARDINOIS)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005